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County Borough of Sunderland.

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1950.

Sunderland:

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Administration OF THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1950

BY

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,
M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
and School Medical Officer.

HEALTH COMMITTEE AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Alderman J. Cohen, J.P., Chairman.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
(Alderman G. H. Morgan), Ex-Officio.

Alderman Miss E. E. Blacklock, Vice-Chairman.

Alderman J. Hoy, B.E.M., J.P.

Alderman E. Johnston, J.P.

Alderman W. Miller

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.. Mrs. M. E. Burlinson.
.. T. M. Carr.
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.. Mrs. J. Ledger.
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Councillor P. Spiers.

.. W.O. Stephenson, M.B.E.
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.. A. Watson.
.. L. Watson.
.. R. A. Watson.
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.. J. W. P. Wilkinson.

Co-opted Members.

Councillor J. W. Foster (Education Committee).

Dr. P. Hickey (Sunderland Executive Council).

Dr. D. R. Cramb (Sunderland Division B.M.A.)

Alderman Mrs. J. Huggins, J.P.

Councillor Miss L. Hill

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health and School	A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,
Medical Officer	M.C., M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.
Acting Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare ...	ETHEL BROWELL, M.D., B.S.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare	BERTHA FLINTOFF, M.B., B.S.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare	ANNE H. WRIGHT, M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare (half-time)	MARION L. BAINBRIDGE, M.B., Ch.B.
Chest Physicians (part-time) ...	ADAM B. WHITE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
	JAMES F. E. JOHNSON, M.B., Ch.B.
Consultant Venereologist	E. S. KIRKHOUSE, T.D., M.D.
Borough Analyst	W. GORDON CAREY, F.I.C.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	NORMAN ADOLPHUS MARLEE, Cert.R.S.I.
Chief Clerk	JAMES W. MILLER.
Superintendent Health Visitor ...	MISS M. M. WAGGOTT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.R.S.I.
Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives...	MISS E. E. FISHER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Special Inspectors: Meat Inspectors (2) (1 combined post with that of Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector): Factories and Workshops (1): Food, Drugs and Dairies (1): Housing (2): Drainage (2):

Total	... ... ... ...	... ... ... ...	... ... ... ...	... ... ... ...	8
District Sanitary Inspectors	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	8
Rodent Control Officer and 3 Rodent Officers	...	...	...	...	4
Removal and Disinfecting Staff	...	...	...	...	3
District Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	16
Tuberculosis Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	3
Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	...	21
Almoner Clerk (V.D. Department)	...	...	...	...	1
Sister (Light Treatment Department)	...	...	...	...	1
Home Help Organiser	...	...	...	...	1
Clerical Staff	...	...	...	...	16

1 Drainage Assistant, 1 Drainage Van driver, Caretaker, 3 Cleaners, 128 Domestic Helps (Full and Part-Time), 1 Full-Time Caretaker and 3 Part-time Caretakers of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

ST. MARK'S DAY NURSERY: Matron, Assistant Matron, Warden and 8 Nursing Staff, Cook and 3 Cleaners.

THOMPSON PARK DAY NURSERY: Matron, Assistant Matron and 9 Nursing Staff, Cook and 3 Cleaners.

PARKER MEMORIAL HOME FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS:— Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and 1 Cleaner.

PUPIL MIDWIFERY HOSTEL, 4 THORNHILL PARK: Resident Superintendent, Cook, Maid and 2 Cleaners.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-fourth Annual Report on the health of the County Borough of Sunderland for the year 1950.

The civilian population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar General is 178,100, a decrease of 3,240 on the figure for 1949.

The number of live births registered during the year was 3,436, of which 1,737 were males, and 1,699 were females, representing a live birth rate of 19.3 per 1,000 of the population compared with 19.9 for the previous year, actually 173 fewer births. The rates for England and Wales and the 126 Great Towns were 15.8 and 17.6 respectively.

During the year 2,238 deaths were recorded (1,213 males and 1,025 females), a decrease of 147 on the previous year, equal to a death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the population. The rates for England and Wales and the 126 Great Towns were 11.6 and 12.3 respectively.

154 infants died under the age of one year, equal to an Infant Mortality rate of 45 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales was 29.8 and for the 126 Great Towns 33.8. 78 of the 154 infant deaths occurred under the age of one month equal to a neo-natal mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 live births. The biggest hope in the reduction of infant mortality lies in preventing deaths in prematurely born infants.

One maternal death occurred during the year giving a Maternal Mortality rate of 0.28 per 1,000 (live and still) births; the rate for England and Wales was 0.86. In Sunderland to have a maternal death rate below that of England and Wales as a whole is unprecedented.

The principal causes of death, in order of numerical importance, were heart diseases (632), cancer (331), respiratory diseases (273) and tuberculosis (102).

Tuberculosis. Whilst the death rate of 0.57 for all forms of tuberculosis is the lowest on record for the Borough, the incidence of this disease, although greatly reduced compared with the previous year—particularly as regards pulmonary tuberculosis, is still higher than desirable.

The total number of new cases notified to me was 256, namely, 211 pulmonary (last year 279) and 45 non-pulmonary (last year 49), a total decrease of 72 on the previous year.

Of these 211 pulmonary notifications, 10 occurred among children under the age of 5 years and 14 between the ages of 5 and 15.

If you compare these figures with those of 1940, instead of 10 children under the age of 5 years, there were 2; and instead of 14 between the ages of 5 and 15, there were only 7. There is still, therefore, a greater number of children being infected in the homes where, if in contact with an open case of tuberculosis, the conditions lend themselves to the spread of infection.

...

There are three methods which are adopted for the prevention of this spread:—

- (1) Removal of the patient who is infected;
- (2) Removal of the child to a house where there is not an open case of tuberculosis;
- (3) Immunisation of the child with B.C.G. against tuberculosis.

It is by adopting such methods outlined above that the prevention of child contacts becoming infected can be ensured.

Infectious Diseases.—The total notifications of general infectious diseases numbered 3,389 compared with 3,973 for the previous year, there being a more or less general decrease in practically all the diseases with the exception of Poliomyelitis, which increased by 33, and Dysentery, which increased by 59 on the previous year. An appreciable decrease occurred as regards Whooping Cough which fell from 845 in 1949 to 428 in 1950, almost a 50% reduction.

Immunisation. It will be observed later in the Report under Maternity and Child Welfare that the number of children immunised during the year fell considerably below the number immunised in 1949. This was entirely due to the necessity to cease immunisation during an outbreak of Poliomyelitis with which it was considered there was some connection, however slight. It is now considered advisable for any campaign in connection with diphtheria immunisation to take place early in the Summer instead of in the late Summer when the incidence of Poliomyelitis appears to increase.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria is one of the best examples of modern science in the prevention of disease

and it is worth while considering at this stage in the National Health Services as to whether preventive medicine should not take a higher priority in such service than it does at the present day; it is even desirable to ask what has curative medicine to offer compared with what preventive medicine has achieved.

In 1941, 697 cases of diphtheria were treated at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases. The average stay was 6 weeks at a cost of £1 per day. The cost, therefore, in 1941 was £29,274. Diphtheria Immunisation of children in their first year and reinforced by a "booster" dose in school life went into operation in 1938 and it is worth while to note that the Borough of Sunderland was one of the first, if not the first, to take immunisation to the people by a mobile van if the people did not come to be immunised. The result of this is seen in the figure in 1950 which is the year we are reviewing. In that year, 32 people were treated for diphtheria at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases which at the small charge of £1 per day which is much lower than it should be owing to the rise in the cost of maintenance would amount to £1,344. Preventive medicine has on these figures alone made a saving of £27,930.

Has there been another saving which cannot be assessed in terms of pounds, shillings and pence? In 1941, 37 people died from diphtheria; in 1950, 1 person died. Surely preventive medicine deserves a higher place in the National Health Service!

Home Help Service and Old People.—In 1950 a great number of chronic sick aged persons were declared fit and sent (a) Home, or (b) to Hostel. This has caused great strain upon two Local Authority Services, i.e., Home Helps and Ambulances.

	Chronic Cases	Aged Persons	Emergency and Maternity Cases
In December, 1949, weekly 142 cases of all types were receiving the services of a Home Help	15% 22	55% 78	30% 42
70 Home Helps full and part-time were employed at this date to cover all these cases			
In December, 1950, weekly 250 cases of all types were receiving the services of a Home Help	10% 25	70% 175	20% 50
120 Home Helps full and part-time were employed at this date to cover all these cases (120 Home Helps = 72 Home Helps working a full 44 hour week)			

In the cases of Chronics and Aged Persons 10 receive full time help (44 hours and over) all other cases receive a varied number of hours according to their needs. These cases will continue for an indefinite period, and in some instances have already received help for over two years.

Of the 175 Aged Persons at least 75 of this number could be regarded as hospital cases, and the cost of maintaining an aged person in hospital is approximately £7 per week, and the cost for an aged person remaining in her own home receiving part-time Home Help Service (9 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily) is £2. 10. 0d. This service is providing enormous relief in saving expenses and hospital bed accommodation.

Hospital accommodation 75 cases at £7 per week						
for 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	£27,300
Home Help Service 75 cases at £2.10.0d. per week						
for 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	£9,750
Approximate Saving						£17,550

In addition to the Home Help Service, the services of the District Nurses have been provided daily in incontinent cases, which number eight, and weekly in thirty other cases.

There is also the psychological benefit to aged persons in enabling them to remain in their own homes, and removing the fear which haunts so many that they may be taken into hospital where they will have to spend the last years of their lives. Aged and infirm persons living by themselves are often very lonely and despondent because they face the certainty of a gradual deterioration of health, and one of the important aspects of the Home Help Service is the companionship which the right type of Home Help can give the friendless old person as well as attending to all their needs.

Ambulance Service for Old People:

Patients removed for
Geriatric Treatment in
1950

1. Transferred in hospital grounds	...	163
2. Conveyed to Out-Patient Dept. from home	...	313
3. Admitted to General Hospital	...	508
4. Discharged from General Hospital	...	273
5. Conveyed to County	...	131

Patients classified in Nos. 1 and 2 had a double journey.

Total cases conveyed 1864, which is 5% of all ambulance cases removed.

Ambulance Services.—Full details in connection with the operation of the Town's Ambulance Service are given later in the Report. It is only significant here to mention that we are now operating from our own ambulance premises and we have radio telephone control in our vehicles.

Home Nursing. The Sunderland District Nursing Association, as a Voluntary Body, has in the past carried out all this work. The Association is now acting as agents for the Corporation and its excellent work has been extended in many details.

It is contemplated in the future that a scheme for "Sitters-up" for people who are very ill and require assistance during the night will be provided.

I have again to record with pleasure the continual hard and effective work carried out by the whole of the personnel of the Health Department, the medical staff of which has been seriously depleted throughout the whole year.

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

"Thornholme,"

Sunderland.

July, 1951.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area. The Area of the Borough is 6,959 acres exclusive of foreshore and tidal waters.

Population. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough is 178,100.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950, according to the Rate Books, was 40,124.

Rateable Value. The rateable value at 1st April, 1950, was £999,651, and the sum represented by a penny rate for 1949-50 was £3,970.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	3,297	1,663	1,634
Illegitimate	139	74	65
BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.3		
STILLBIRTHS—Legitimate 108, Illegitimate 2	110	55	55
RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births	31.0		
DEATHS	2,238	1,213	1,025
DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.6		
DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes—	Deaths. Rate per 1,000 births.		
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	1	0.28	0.28
Total	1	0.28	0.28
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	57
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	22
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	36
Deaths from Cancer, including Leukemia (all ages)	...	...	331
,, " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	14

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950	SEX	Nett Deaths at the sub-joined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring within or without the district.									
		ALL AGES	Under 1 yr.	1 to 5 yr.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 & over	
Tuberculosis of the resp. system	M	61	—	1	—	7	21	22	8	2	
...	F	29	1	—	1	9	11	5	2	—	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	M	6	—	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	
...	F	6	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	
Syphilitic Diseases	M	11	—	—	—	—	1	6	3	1	
...	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	
Diphtheria	M	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
...	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
...	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infections	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
...	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	M	5	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	
...	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Measles	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
...	F	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	5	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	
...	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	M	188	—	—	—	2	7	83	69	2	
...	F	139	—	—	—	3	13	51	41	3	
Leukemia and Aleukemia	M	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	
...	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Diabetes	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	
...	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	131	—	—	—	—	—	25	43	6	
...	F	145	—	1	—	1	2	24	44	7	
Heart Diseases	M	314	—	—	—	2	11	75	106	12	
...	F	318	—	—	—	3	7	52	94	10	
Other circulatory diseases	M	53	—	—	—	—	—	9	11	—	
...	F	68	—	—	—	—	—	5	11	—	
Influenza	M	9	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	
...	F	13	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Pneumonia	M	61	13	5	—	1	3	20	12	—	
...	F	46	23	1	—	1	1	6	5	—	
Bronchitis	M	94	5	—	—	—	2	36	26	—	
...	F	55	2	1	—	—	1	12	16	—	
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	11	—	1	—	1	2	2	2	—	
...	F	6	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	26	—	—	—	—	6	11	8	—	
...	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	12	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
...	F	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	14	—	—	1	1	2	3	2	—	
...	F	21	—	1	—	—	3	5	11	—	
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	28	—	—	—	—	—	6	12	—	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Congenital malformations	M	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
...	F	9	3	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	113	52	2	2	—	6	25	14	—	
...	F	114	30	—	3	3	7	22	17	—	
Motor vehicle accidents	M	6	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	
...	F	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	
All other accidents	M	32	—	3	2	5	6	4	7	—	
...	F	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Suicide	M	12	—	—	—	1	3	5	3	—	
...	F	8	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	
Homicide or operations of war	M	6	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	
...	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	M	1213	90	18	10	22	76	346	330	11	
	F	1025	64	15	5	25	58	202	253	10	

SECTION B.**AMBULANCE SERVICE**

During the year, the Central Ambulance Service had 37,164 calls.

The total number of calls and the mileage entailed as compared with previous years was as follows:—

		Calls.	Mileage.
1947	...	10,655	71,717
1948	...	17,865	90,506
1949	...	28,727	137,482
1950	...	37,164	152,758

Staff:

The strength of the staff during 1950 was as follows:—

1	Ambulance Officer.
1	Deputy Ambulance Officer.
4	drivers—12 midnight to 8 a.m.
4	„ 4 p.m. to 12 midnight.
2	„ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (for accidents).
2	„ 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. (to cover peak period).
8	„ 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3	„ Relief for rest days of staff.
2	„ 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 12 midnight (for H.I.D. cases)..

Removal of Cases:

General Hospital	...	...	...	8,549
Highfield Welfare	...	...	...	48
Hospital for Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	934
Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	13,284
Monkwearmouth Hospital	...	...	...	5,828
Childrens' Hospital	...	...	...	1,223
Ryhope General Hospital	...	...	...	2,663
County Cases	...	...	...	1,365
Accidents	...	...	...	1,355
Eye Infirmary	...	...	...	100
Other journeys	...	...	...	1,815
				37,164

Removals by Ambulances	...	...	35,363		
,,	,,	Sitting Case Cars	...	1,801	
Miles covered by Ambulances	...	...	128,330		
,,	,,	,,	Sitting Case Cars	...	20,855
,,	,,	,,	Utility Van	...	3,573

Arrangements were made during the year for radio telephones to be fitted to the ambulances and for a Central Ambulance Depot to be set up at Eden Vale. These arrangements were not completed during the year under review.

The Ambulance Service under Civil Defence has received attention and the permanent drivers, in addition to the Civil Defence volunteers to the Ambulance Service, have received a basic training and also an extensive course on First Aid.

Ambulance Depots for Civil Defence have been earmarked in suitable buildings in the Borough.

SECTION C.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Infant Welfare Centres.—The total number of Infant Welfare Centres functioning in 1950 was 12.

The premises, 7 Newcastle Road, were opened for daily use on 31st January, 1950, and 4 infant welfare sessions per week commenced there.

The morning session at Priestman Hall was closed on 29th September and Mothers were referred to Newcastle Road.

The situation of the Centres and the sessions held are shown hereunder.

Day.	Mornings.	Afternoons.
Monday	—	Southwick: St. Hilda's Church Hall.
Tuesday	(a) Ford Estate: Social Service Hall. (b) 7 Newcastle Road.	(a) Grangetown: St. Aidan's Church Hall. (b) Springwell: St. Mary's Church Hall. (c) 7 Newcastle Road.
Wednesday	Millfield: St. Mark's Church Hall.	Millfield: St. Mark's Church Hall.
Thursday	(a) Millfield: St. Mark's Church Hall. (b) Central: The Citadel, Lambton Street. (c) 7 Newcastle Road.	(a) Monkwearmouth: Dock St. Church Hall. (b) Pallion: St. Mary Magdalene's Church Hall. (c) Humbledon: Ettrick Grove Wesleyan Chapel.
Friday	7 Newcastle Road	(a) Fulwell: Priestman Hall. (b) Hendon: St. Barnabas Church Hall.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—The number of ante-natal sessions held weekly during 1950, was 5.

Attendances compared with two previous years are shown hereunder:—

Year.	Primary attendances.	Subsequent attendances.
1948	1332	3134
1949	1249	3043
1950	954	2440

The fall in numbers of ante-natal attendances is attributed to the fact that more women are booking a doctor under the National Health Service for their confinements.

Post-natal Clinics.—One session weekly continued at The Citadel, Lambton Street, and a second weekly session was opened at Newcastle Road, in February, 1950. 192 new cases were examined and 253 subsequent visits were made.

Non-V.D. Clinics.—Sessions were held in conjunction with the Post-natal Clinics. 73 primary attendances were made and 41 subsequent visits.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The following table shows the total number of children, who were immunised during the year compared with 1949.

Immunisations ceased during the months of July, August and September owing to the possibility of an association between this and acute anterior poliomyelitis.

Year	0-1 yrs.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	9-14 yrs.	Total
1949	671	1021	305	59	209	154	—	2419
1950	940	319	139	33	13	49	—	1493

“Boosting” Doses.—239 injections were given at school entry age to children who had been previously immunised as compared with 277 in the previous year.

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.—

First injections	...	...	...	517
Second injections	...	...	...	485
Completed course	...	...	...	460

Whooping Cough Immunisation.—

First injections	...	...	...	104
Second injections	...	...	...	88
Completed course	...	...	...	64

Vaccinations.—1370 primary vaccinations were successful. 27 revaccinations were carried out.

Health Visitors.—There were 1 Superintendent and 16 Health Visitors on the staff at the end of the year instead of the full establishment of 1 Superintendent and 21 Health Visitors.

One Health visitor continued to act as a full time Almoner for the V.D. Department of the Royal Infirmary.

One Health Visitor returned to the staff in October, 1950, after successfully obtaining the Child Care Diploma of the Central Training Council, University of Leeds.

3 Student Health Visitors were appointed in September, 1950 and commenced training for the Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

During the year Health Visitors paid 31,786 visits to Homes, in addition to attendances at Infant Welfare Centres, Ante-natal Clinics and special clinics. Details of these visits are given in tabular form on page 19.

Municipal Midwifery Service.—There are 1 non-medical Supervisor, 1 Deputy non-medical Supervisor and 23 Midwives,

on the established staff, but at no time during the year was there a full complement of Midwives.

During the year, the following cases were attended by Municipal Midwives:—

Midwifery cases 881, requiring 19,531 nursing visits.

Maternity cases 749, requiring 9,269 nursing visits.

Miscarriages attended 6.

Ante-natal visits to patients 8,129.

Post-natal visits to patients 2,419.

Municipal Midwives continued to "follow up" cases discharged from the Sunderland Maternity Hospital before completion of puerperium. There were 1,109 cases referred as requiring further nursing and 5,403 visits were made.

District Nursing Association.—Domiciliary Midwifery:—The following cases were taken by Midwives of the District Nursing Association:—

Midwifery cases 253, requiring 7,842 nursing visits.

Maternity cases 328, requiring 9,328 nursing visits.

Miscarriages attended, 14.

Ante-natal visits to patients, 4,817.

Post-natal visits to patients, 1,479.

Gas and Air Analgesia.—(a) Gas and air analgesia was administered to 239 cases by Municipal Midwives, as compared with 229 in 1949. (b) Gas and air analgesia was administered to 112 cases by Midwives of the District Nursing Association as compared with 48 cases in 1949.

Sunderland Second Period Training School.—The second period training of pupil midwives continued throughout the year. 51 pupils completed their training. 48 pupils were successful in obtaining their certificates at the first attempt and two of the failures satisfied the examiners at the second attempt.

Premature Infants.—One District Teacher Midwife received one month's special training in the care of premature infants at the Sorrento Hospital, Birmingham, in 1950.

290 notifications of premature births were received. 49 deaths occurred among these children.

Ages at time of death:—

Neo-natal Deaths			Months							
Under 24 hours	2-8 days	8-28 days	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
26	18	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Deaths occurring from accidental Mechanical Suffocation.—

1, viz:—Age 2 years. Asphyxia by drowning. Child was accidentally drowned by falling into a water tub in the yard of his home.

Domestic Helps.—A Full-time Organiser was appointed in June, 1950. Domestic Help was provided as follows:—

Maternity cases (including expectant mothers) ...	309
Tuberculosis	13
Others	471
Total	793

At the end of the year 20 whole-time and 100 part-time Helps were employed, equivalent to 75 Helps working full-time. Help in the home has varied from a few hours daily to full-time service.

Ultra Violet Radiation.—295 mothers and children made 9,277 attendances for U.V.R. treatment at the Health Department. 87 pre-school children made 1,238 at the Southwick school clinic where two sessions weekly continued with the exception of school holidays.

Treatment was given for the following conditions:

	Thornholme (Health Dept.)	Southwick.
Rickets	107	37
Debility	178	50
Anaemia	10	—
295		87

Minor Ailments.—28 pre-school children made 110 attendances.

Ophthalmic Clinic.—68 pre-school children suffering from defective vision were examined and glasses were prescribed in 32 cases.

N.S.P.C.C.—5 new cases were referred to this Society.

Illegitimate Children.—Unmarried expectant mothers and married women expecting illegitimate children are referred to the Moral Welfare Officer.

Cases during 1950 were:—

Unmarried mothers	...	...	...	...	66
Married women with illegitimate children	...	...	...	...	11
Widows with illegitimate children	...	...	...	...	1
Divorced women with illegitimate children	...	...	...	...	3

Parker Memorial Home for Unmarried Mothers.—

Girls admitted during 1950	...	...	...	18
Babies admitted during 1950	...	...	...	15

Girls continue to be referred to the Sunderland Maternity Hospital for delivery.

Average length of stay:—

Ante-natal period	...	...	...	...	28 days.
Post-natal period	...	...	...	...	39 days.

Registration of Nursing Homes.—One nursing home is on the register. No unregistered homes were discovered during the year and no applications for registration were received.

Blind Persons Act.—Visits to partially blind persons on the register are in the table of Health Visitors' visits.

Day Nurseries.—St. Mark's Day Nursery, Chester Road and Thompson Park Day Nursery both admit children from 0—5 years and have accommodation for 50 children each. There are long waiting lists for admission to both nurseries and admission is given to priority cases only.

One candidate entered for the examination of the National Nursery Examination Board, and was successful in obtaining the certificate.

Nurseries and Child Minder's Act, 1948.—One application was received and granted. There were no children in this Home in 1950.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and of Pre-School Children.

Dental treatment was given to expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children during the year but on a more restricted scale in the case of the adults than in the previous year.

This was due to the resignation of two members of the dental staff who left the service at the end of March. A result of the loss of two dental officers was that less time was available for the inspection and treatment of the two priority classes and the treatment given was chiefly of an emergency nature.

In the circumstances, the existing inadequate staff can do no more than maintain an emergency service and the nucleus of a scheme which can be developed when more dentists are available.

(a) Numbers provided with dental care:

		Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Number of Attendances	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	149	138	134	243	121	
Children under five	508	472	445	522	—	

(b) Forms of treatment provided:

	Extractions	Anæsthetics		Fillings	Sealings or Scaling & Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radiographs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	255	57	20	11	48	—	38	—	18	6
Children under five	655	—	404	15	7	14	17	—	—	—

National Health Service Act, 1946.—Work done by the Sunderland District Nursing Association on behalf of the Council as Local Health Authority:—

HOME NURSING

Number of Home Nurses employed at 31st December, 1950—Whole-time on Home Nursing	...	20
Number on 31st December, 1950—Part-time on Home Nursing	...	7
Number of cases attended by Home Nurses in 1950	...	2,196
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year	...	72,628

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

This Section deals with the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was taken by the Welfare Committee during 1950.

WORK DONE BY MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES, 1950.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. The source of supply remains unchanged and the quality and quantity satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage. 6,513 lineal yards of new sewers were laid during the year under review by the Borough Surveyor and during the year 130 feet of cast-iron drains and 4,597 feet of stone-ware drains have been laid.

Rivers and Streams. No action has been taken for the prevention of pollution of the river Wear which takes the effluent from 13 sewers.

Owing to the fact that the river Wear is a tidal river and taking sewage, little can be done to prevent or mitigate pollution.

Closet Accommodation. During the year 161 broken or otherwise defective watercloset basins were replaced by new washdown pedestal basins.

Below will be found a table showing the conveniences in the Borough at the end of 1950:—

Houses, &c., with water-closets and movable ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	39,588
Houses, &c., with ashpits, privies and ashpits pan privies, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	73 x

x These are not within a reasonable distance of a sewer.

Public Cleansing. The amount of domestic refuse removed during 1950 was 61,707 tons; street refuse 5,495 tons; salvage (including kitchen waste) 2,354 tons. In addition, 50,579 gullies were emptied.

The arrangement for removal of house refuse remains efficient, the whole of the removal being carried out by means of closed carts.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The number of visits made during the period under review by the District Inspectors (including inspections, advisory visits, etc.) was 20,298.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS BY THE
DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

Houses and Premises: visits or examina- tions on account of	Appointments or advice ...	...	...	...	...	290
	Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	237
	Infectious Disease Contacts	...	...	...	...	46
	Alleged Nuisances	...	...	...	...	2,945
	House to House work	...	...	...	...	592
	Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	95
	Occupants	...	...	...	...	416
	Drainage	...	...	...	...	2,718
	Work in progress	...	...	...	...	8,300
	Information (Ownerships, etc.)	...	...	...	...	937
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	128
Schools (inspection of conveniences, etc)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Public Sanitary Conveniences (including licensed houses, places of entertainment, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	254
Vans, tents, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	42
Stables, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	56
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	—
Streams, ditches, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	36
Other visits and Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	3,196
						—
						20,298
						—

NOTICES SERVED IN CONSEQUENCE OF NUISANCES, &c.
FOUND DURING INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Nature of Notice	Intimation		Statutory		Total Notices
	Own-er	Occu-pier	Own-er	Occu-pier	
To—					
Cleanse or repair drains	8	—	309	—	317
Renew drains	1	—	24	—	25
Renew defective watercloset basin	—	—	123	—	123
Cleanse dirty watercloset basin	—	17	5	9	31
Cleanse dirty floor, seat, etc. of watercloset	37	6	17	—	60
Repair seat, roof, door of watercloset	436	—	17	—	453
Renew or repair flushing cistern	15	—	159	—	174
Renew or repair flushing pipe	2	—	50	—	52
Provide additional watercloset(s)	2	—	—	—	2
Provide water supply to watercloset...	—	—	12	—	12
Abolish waste watercloset	—	—	—	—	—
Abolish privies and substitute water-closets	1	—	—	—	1
Repair or renew soil or vent pipe ...	14	—	16	—	30
,, bath waste pipe ...	6	—	—	—	6
,, lavatory waste pipe	2	—	—	—	2
,, sink waste pipe ...	22	—	—	—	22
Provide new urinal	—	—	—	—	—
Repair or cleanse urinal	—	—	—	—	—
Abolish ashpit and provide dustbin...	—	—	—	—	—
Repair or renew dustbin	324	—	1	—	325
Provide additional dustbin(s)	207	—	16	—	223
Cleanse dirty rooms or houses	14	7	—	9	30
Cleanse dirty bedding etc.	—	18	—	—	18
Lime-wash staircase walls, yard walls, conveniences, etc.	—	2	—	—	2
Repair windows, walls, floors, ceilings, etc.	2795	—	—	—	2795
Remedy damp walls	607	—	—	—	607
Provide light and ventilation	21	—	—	—	21
Repair roof	1239	—	—	—	1239
Repair or renew spouts	1134	—	—	—	1134
Abate overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Provide domestic water supply	9	—	—	—	9
Provide or repair yard pavement ...	173	—	—	—	173
Cleanse yard pavement	—	6	—	—	6
Remove offensive accumulations	15	18	—	—	33
Remove manure	—	6	—	—	6
Abate nuisance from the keeping of animals, etc.	—	3	—	—	3
Provide or renew manure pit	—	—	—	—	—
Pave or repair stable or byre floor...	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanse streams, ditches, etc.	1	—	—	—	1
Abate other nuisances	2366	—	—	—	2366
TOTALS	9451	83	749	18	10301

DRAIN TESTING.

	Nature of Test			Total	Defective
	Water	Chem-ical	Smoke		
On Request	4	—	2	6	—
On Complaint	—	—	—	—	—
On Suspicion of Nuisance	1	1	3	5	2
On Account of Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—
Work in Progress	313	—	18	331	33
Retested	37	—	—	37	3
TOTALS ...	355	1	23	379	38

NUISANCE ABATED AND WORK PERFORMED.

Drains cleansed or repaired	312
Drains renewed (length):—	ft.
Metal 4 in.	130
Stoneware 4 in.	4597
Watercloset basin renewed	161
Watercloset basin cleansed	43
Watercloset, floor, seat, &c., cleansed ...	52
Watercloset seat, roof, door repaired ...	439
Watercloset cistern renewed or repaired ...	170
Watercloset flushpipe renewed or repaired ...	70
Watercloset additional provided	1
Watercloset water supply provided	5
Waste watercloset abolished	—
Privy abolished and watercloset substituted ...	1
Soil or vent pipe repaired or renewed	30
Bath waste pipes repaired or renewed ...	6
Lavatory waste pipes repaired or renewed ...	2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ...	22
New urinal provided	—
Urinal repaired and cleansed	—
Ashpit abolished and dustbin provided ...	—
Dustbin repaired or renewed	285
Dustbin additional provided	212
Dirty rooms or houses cleansed	73
Dirty Bedding, &c., cleansed	18
Staircase walls, yard walls, conveniences, &c., limewashed	20
Windows, walls, floors, ceilings, &c., repaired	2431
Dampness remedied	518
Light and Ventilation provided	22

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	1111
Spouts renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	972
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	—
Domestic water supply provided	...	...	...	...	9
Yard pavement provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	136
Yard pavement cleansed	...	...	...	...	34
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	39
Manure, &c., removed	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals, nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	15
Manure pit provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Stable or byre floors paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Streams, ditches, &c., cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	2230

Legal Proceedings:—During the past year legal proceedings were instituted in respect of five cases, viz., 1 for refusal to submit information as to the ownership of a house to enable the service of a notice under the Housing Act, 1936, which resulted in a fine of 40/- being imposed; 2 cases in respect of one offence—that of selling a loaf of bread containing a dirty finger bandage which resulted in fines of £10 and £20 respectively; 1 case of selling pork sausage deficient in meat content to the extent of 12½%, which resulted in a fine of £20; and 1 case of selling milk deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 8.8% (added water) for which a fine of 40/- resulted.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are only three common lodging houses in the Borough and these provide accommodation for 268 lodgers. The high standard of cleanliness and conduct was again maintained as in former years.

Offensive Trades.—The number of establishments carrying on offensive trades in the Borough is as follows:—

Skin (Gut and Casings) Preparing Houses	...	...	1
Fish Curing Houses	...	...	—
Marine Stores (Rag and Bone, etc., dealers)	...	...	7
Hide and Skin Warehouses	...	...	—
Tripe Preparers	...	...	3
Knackery	...	...	1

Plans.—The practice of all plans for new buildings being submitted to this office for examination in relation to sanitary works has been continued throughout the year. This is an important connection between the Building Surveyor and the Health Department. The total number of plans examined and commented upon was 587.

DRAINAGE WORK IN CONNECTION WITH NEW BUILDINGS

The following work has been carried out during the year by the Inspector engaged for this particular branch of the Department.

DRAINAGE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.
WORK CARRIED OUT.

Type of Tests	Number of Tests	Faults—% of Total	Re-tests	Final tests of Completed Buildings	Certificates Issued	Interviews and advice	Inspections of work in progress
SMOKE	165	3	3	1067	536		688
WATER	7626	434	5.7	437			
TOTALS	7791	437	5.6	1067	1067		1224

ANALYSIS OF DRAINAGE TESTED.

STONEWARE

	4"	6"	9"	12"	4"	6"	9"	12"	Total
SMOKE	116	1865	88	648	11030	—	—	—	13747
WATER	114506	21676	1315	496	16643	—	—	—	154636
TOTAL									168383

FIGURES INDICATE NUMBER OF RUNNING FEET

Rat Repression.—Particulars of the work done by the three Rodent Operatives are given in the subjoined table:—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	1,122
Premises inspected on receipt of complaint and otherwise	...	...	...	...	1,358
Rats caught by traps, or killed by hand or poisoned	...	...	...	...	13,640
Number of poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	32,399
Number of traps set	...	...	...	...	344
Visits for purpose of observation, work in progress or work done	...	...	...	...	1,617

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1926.—There are no premises in the Borough where rag flock is actually manufactured although it is used by a number of firms in the process of their particular trade.

No samples were taken during the year under review.

Camping Sites.—There are no sites in the Borough licensed for this particular purpose.

Smoke Abatement. 43 visits were made to premises in connection with smoke abatement and five smoke observations were carried out at separate premises within the Borough. There has again been a slight improvement in regard to smoke emission. With the rising costs of solid fuels the majority of persons concerned with running steam-raising plants are realising that the efficient combustion of fuel will save some considerable amount of money over a period of twelve months. The quality of coal supplied in the Borough has improved recently and it has been possible on two occasions to arrange with the National Coal Board for a supply of coal suitable for the needs of the plants concerned. In one particular factory there was some evidence that grit was being emitted in such quantity as to constitute a nuisance, this was remedied by a change of coal. Work on two new boiler plants is still being held up for various reasons and it is hoped that during the ensuing year these alterations will be completed.

Wells.—No samples of water were taken during the year under review. Two samples were taken from the towns main supply. Both were satisfactory.

Plunge Baths.—There are three plunge baths in the town and 15 visits were made. Six samples of water were taken and all were satisfactory.

The SHOPS ACT, 1934 (Section 10).
The SHOPS ACT, 1950 (Sections 37, 38)

The following work has been performed by the Inspector appointed for the purpose:—

Sub-Sections	Inspections	Infringe- ments found	Infringe- ments remedied
To provide and maintain suitable ventilation		8	8
To provide and maintain reasonable temperature		19	19
To provide and maintain suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation		67	67
To provide suitable and sufficient lighting		2	2
To provide and maintain washing facilities		6	6
To provide and maintain facilities for meals		1	1
To provide seats for female employees		8	8
TOTALS ...	609	111	111

Public Health Act 1936 (in relation to business premises).—Under this heading are included offices and other workplaces which are not included under the headings Shops, Factories and Food Premises.

	Inspections	Defects found	Defects Remedied
Sanitary Accommodation	42	21	21
Other nuisances	31	16	16
TOTALS ...	73	37	37

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933 (Health Provisions)
PART II POISONS

Total number of licences issued, 95.

Particulars.	Inspections	Infringe- ments found	Infringe- ments remedied
Bottling		—	—
Labelling		3	3
Storage		14	14
TOTALS ...	129	17	17

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938, SECTIONS 13 and 14.

Under this heading are included all premises where food is prepared, stored, sold, etc., and includes work by District Inspectors.

	Inspections	Infringements	
		Found	Remedied
Shops, warehouses, factories, public-houses, hotels, cafes, snack bars, bakehouses, etc.	3417	2106	2106

FACTORY ACT, 1937—1949 AND THE SANITARY ACCOMMODATION REGULATIONS 1938.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises Inspected.	Number of	
	Inspections	Notices
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	51	32
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	262	38
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	2
TOTALS	355	72

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects		
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	18	18	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	4	4	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	6	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	11	11	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	2	2	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) insufficient	12	12	—
unsuitable or defective	92	92	—
not separate for sexes	4	4	—
Other Offences:			
(Not including offences relating to work)	1	1	1
TOTAL	150	150	2

Number of outworkers employed in the Borough, 6.

Underground Bakehouses. Only 2 bakehouses under this heading are now left in the Borough.

MINISTRY OF FOOD CIRCULAR M.F. 7/49.

The requirements of this Circular dealing with cleanliness of food premises, etc., have been carried out and are receiving high priority in the Sanitary Inspectors' visits. The work is covered in the foregoing tables. The Sunderland Voluntary Food Traders Guild has been formed in the town to further Food Hygiene amongst our shops and workpeople. Lectures to the staffs of the larger food premises, Traders Associations and Townswomens Guilds, etc., are being given by the Senior Inspectors to help in obtaining a generally higher standard of hygiene in our Food premises.

Sonei Dysentery.—During the year there were 58 isolated cases of Sonei Dysentery.

None of these appeared to be connected in any way with each other.

All necessary precautions to prevent a severe outbreak were taken by my Department.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS
YEAR, 1950.

APPENDIX D. (i).

Food Poisoning Notifications Returned to R.G.—1st quarter, nil; 2nd quarter, 2; 3rd quarter, 3; 4th quarter 1; Total, 6.

Outbreaks due to Identified Agents.—Total outbreaks, 1. Total cases, 11.

Outbreaks due to:—

- (a) Chemical Poisons, Nil.
- (b) Salmonella Organisms, Nil.
- (c) Staphylococci, 1.
- (d) C.1. botulinum, Nil.
- (e) Other bacteria, Nil.

Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause:—Total outbreaks, Nil. Total cases, Nil.

Single cases.—Agent identified, Nil; unknown cause, 5. Total, 5.

APPENDIX D. (ii).

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK (Summary of Details)
Outbreak of Food Poisoning which occurred 2nd September, 1950

Food Causing Outbreak. Tongue prepared at home for wedding reception.

Cases Forming Outbreak.—Eleven. (a) seven hospital cases (b) four home treated. 1 only notified by Medical Practitioner. Other cases admitted to hospital overnight without notification.

Clinical Features.—Sickness and diarrhoea about one to two hours after the meal.

Result of Laboratory Investigation.—Staphylococcus Aureus about 1,000,000 per gramme was present in a tongue from which sandwiches had been prepared.

Staphylococcus Aureus was found in the faeces of four of the cases. (No trace of Salmonella group was found in any of the specimens submitted).

Origin and Preparation of Food causing illness.—The tongue was one of two prepared together in a vessel. Another tongue had been eaten by the supplying butcher without ill effect. The tongue was purchased by the bride's mother on Tuesday, 29th

August, and boiled the same day. The tongue was stored until Friday, 1st September, in the house and made up into sandwiches at 12 p.m. Out of three persons carrying out this task, two were ill.

A second tongue supplied by another butcher was purchased on Thursday, 31st August and boiled the same day. This was also made into sandwiches at about the same time.

A tin of meat was opened by the bride's mother on Wednesday, 30th August and portions of it had been eaten by her at various times up to Saturday, 2nd September. The residue was made into sandwiches.

Other food was supplied by a firm of caterers and included ham sandwiches, sausage rolls and cream cakes.

Samples of all the foods were taken and Dr. Wilson opened the Royal Infirmary laboratory on Sunday, 3rd September, to accept these samples along with specimens of excreta and urine from the patients and contacts with the following results:—

Staphylococcus Aureus, about 1,000,000 per gramme was present in one tongue but was not found in the other samples of food submitted.

Staphylococcus Aureus were found in the faeces of four patients, and Dr. Crone of the P.H. Laboratory, Sunderland, who carried out the tests, found no trace of Salmonella organisms in any of the specimens submitted.

Organisms of Salmonella group were not found in any sample of food submitted.

Conclusion: The 1st tongue was causative agent and probably contaminated at home between 29th August and 1st September.

The patients were all discharged—six on the 3rd September and one on 6th September. The other guests were not affected.

56 visits, enquiries, etc., of persons and food premises.

32 examinations of faeces, urine, food.

35 hours of inspection and office duties.

SECTION E.
HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Number of new houses erected during the year	1083
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2924
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	9485
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	627
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	890
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	80
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1632
Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1696
Action under statutory Powers during the year:—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	176
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	142
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	39

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	2031
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	1741
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners						62

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	73
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	49

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS BY HOUSING INSPECTORS
UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936, etc.

Houses inspected for the purpose of Section 9 notices	176
Other visits under Section 9	1108
Houses inspected for the purpose of Section 11 notices	73
Houses inspected for the purpose of Section 12 notices	7
Houses inspected under Section 10 (Work in Default)	88
Other visits under Sections 11, 12 and 13	274
Inspections of properties in Slum Clearance Areas	200
Special inspections	311
Inspections on complaints	274
Inspections of work in progress	140
Visits in respect of ownerships, land charges, etc.	91
Inspections re Defence Regulations 68C A.	4
Appointments and interviews	475

CLEARANCE AREAS.

SECOND AND THIRD FIVE YEAR PROGRAMMES OF
SLUM CLEARANCE.

Areas of Unfit Dwelling Houses to be demolished when sufficient new houses are available:—

	Areas.	Houses.	Families.	Persons.
1. Second Five Year Programme of Slum Clearance ...	26	1,918	5,000	19,700
2. Areas submitted to Health Committee 23/2/49 (Third Five Year Pro- gramme ...	40	2,033	4,108	19,300
Total to be dealt with	66	3,951	9,108	39,000

PRIORITY CLEARANCE AREAS.

During the year a programme of 13 Priority Clearance Areas, consisting of 1,127 dwelling houses, occupied by 2889 families or 11,319 persons was considered by the Health Committee as suitable for immediate action.

The Ministry of Health was approached and asked for the authority to build sufficient additional new houses beyond the stipulated allocation to commence the clearance of these priority areas.

This proposal was to relieve some of the overcrowding and the distressing living conditions in the areas and demolish many of the worst dwelling houses and provide an opportunity for the re-development on cleared areas.

DEMOLITION ORDERS—SECTION 11.

Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 were served in respect of 73 Houses. Of this number, 32 houses were vacant or derelict and dangerous, the remaining 41 dwelling houses were occupied by 75 families, comprising 275 persons.

The names of the 75 families were submitted to the Housing Department for the purpose of rehousing.

CLOSING ORDERS—SECTION 12.

Under Section 12, Closing Orders were served in respect of 1 occupied and 2 vacant basements and 3 occupied and 2 vacant parts of houses, making a total of 7 dwellings. The names of the 5 families were submitted to the Housing Department for the purpose of rehousing.

NOTICES FOR REPAIRS UNDER SECTION 9

Owners or Agents not responsive to the Intimation Notices served necessitated the serving of 176 Section 9 Notices of the Housing Act, 1936, for the necessary repairs to be carried out to make the houses reasonably fit for human habitation.

SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. The supervision of all premises where milk is pasteurised, stored or sold was carried out and the cleanliness of these premises maintained. A company formed by local dairymen completed work on a new pasteurising depot and this has resulted in a considerable improvement in the distribution of a safe milk supply as it has almost eliminated the back-yard type of dairy. The milk is now being pasteurised and bottled at one centre and the back-yard dairy is only used for the storage of milk prior to retail distribution. This has considerably reduced any chance of contamination of milk supplies which might have occurred in the small dairy due to insufficient equipment for the cleansing and sterilisation of bottles etc.

I feel that the local dairymen are to be congratulated on their efforts to safeguard the milk supplies of the town.

It was necessary in respect of only one supply of raw milk to enforce compulsory pasteurisation, this being due to the presence of tubercle bacilli. Pasteurisation of this milk was carried out until the receipt of a clearance certificate regarding the herd from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Animal Health Division).

Dairies and Milkshops. The following table shows the number of registered Dairies and Milkshops in the Borough:—

Number of Dairies and Milkshops in the Borough on the register on 31st December, 1949:—

Ordinary	...	...	...	...	6
In sealed bottles only	...	...	...	...	206
Dairies	...	...	...	...	48
				—	260

Number added to the Register during the year —

Dairy	...	...	...	...	1
				—	1

Number on Register on 31st December, 1950:—

Ordinary	...	...	...	...	6
In sealed bottles only	...	...	...	...	206
Dairies	...	...	...	...	47
				—	259

The following visits were paid during the year by the Milk and Dairies Inspector in connection with the Milk and Dairies and Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949:—

To Dairies and Milkshops	646
To Railway Stations	29

NUMBER OF MILK SAMPLES SUBJECTED TO
ANALYTICAL EXAMINATION FOR THE ESTIMATE
OF MILKFAT, NON-FATTY SOLIDS OR ADDED
WATER; METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION,
COLIFORM PHOSPHATASE TURBIDITY AND
BIOLOGICAL TESTS DURING 1950.

Chemical Analysis—

Milk	140
------------------	-----

**Methylene Blue Reduction Test and Coli-
form Tests—**

Tuberculin Tested Milk	11
Accredited Milk	1

Biological Examination—

Non-designated Milk	30
Designated Milk	10

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN FOR BIOLOGICAL
EXAMINATION. SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

Local Farmers	Local Dairymen per		Durham	Other Sources	Total	No. Positive
	Rail	Farmers				
12	—	28	40	—	40	1

Number of Samples taken under Raw Milk
(Special Designations) Pasteurised and
Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949.

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	132
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	82
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	37

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) RAW MILK
REGULATIONS, 1949,
MILK, (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) PASTEURISED AND
STERILISED MILK REGULATIONS, 1949.

Results of Samples of designated milks taken during the year for the purpose of bacteriological examination.

Samples were taken from two pasteurising establishments, one sterilising establishment, and persons holding dealers licences under the above Regulations.

The total number of samples taken was 263 and these are classified below:—

	T'berculin Tested	Accred- ited	Pasteur- ised	T.T. Pasteur- ised	Steril- ized	Total	Test Invalid Temp. 65° F.
SATISFACTORY	7	—	125	80	35	247	—
UNSATISFACTORY	4	1	3	1	2	11	5
TOTALS ...	11	1	128	81	37	258	5

263 samples were taken and 11 samples failed the statutory tests; 5 other samples which failed the prescribed test were taken during the warm weather and the maximum temperature exceeded 65° F. at the time the samples were being examined—these results were invalid. The sampling of raw designated milks is now the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture as the Local Authority has no control over the production of milk.

Where samples of designated raw milk were unsatisfactory, the Ministry of Agriculture was notified.

DESIGNATED MILKS AND ISSUE OF LICENCES

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:—

Dealers (Pasteurised) licences	...	...	...	2
,, (Sterilisers)	,,	...	...	1
,, (Pasteurised)	,,	...	...	48
,, (Sterilised)	,,	...	...	151
Supplementary Dealers (Pasteurised) licences	...	...	5	
,, , (Sterilised)	,,	...	3	
,, , (Tuberculin Tested) licences	1			

Ice-cream Factories, Merchants and Dealers. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in all premises where ice-cream is being manufactured, sold and stored. Frequent inspections were carried out at all premises during the process of manufacturing ice-cream and also supervision of the cleansing and sterilisation of equipment. There has been some improvement in the bacteriological grading of ice-cream manufactured in the Borough, 76.25% of samples taken in 1950 as compared with 65.21% of samples taken in 1949 satisfied the Methylene Blue Reduction test. It is hoped that this improvement continues in the future. The average fat content of 34 samples of ice-cream submitted for chemical analysis during the year was 4.87% being slightly lower than the figure for 1949, which was 4.93%.

With the introduction of a legal standard for fat content, milk solids not fat, and sugar, by the Ministry of Food, in 1951, it will be possible to take action against manufacturers of ice-cream which is below the minimum standard.

RESULTS OF SAMPLES OF ICE-CREAM
TAKEN FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

0-2.5% fat	2.5%-5% fat	5%-7.5% fat	7.5%-10% fat	10% & over
6	16	6	3	3

RESULTS OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION
METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

Grade 1	...	...	142	Satisfactory	...	167
Grade 2	...	...	25		...	
Grade 3	...	...	35		...	
Grade 4	...	...	17		...	52
<hr/>						219

The number of manufacturers in the town on the 31st December, 1950, was 21 and the number of factories 19, the number of retail shops 202.

The number of visits to manufacturers and vendors during the year was 895.

FOOD POISONING.

Three samples of ice-cream, 6 samples of milk, 3 samples of synthetic cream and 12 samples of other foods including tongue, sausage rolls, etc., were taken and examined. No evidence of Enteric organisms was found, but one sample of tongue was found to contain *Staphylococcus Aureus* (see Food Poisoning Notifications, page 30).

ADULTERATION, &c.

The number of samples analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the Borough during the year was 324 and these may be classified as follows:—

		Number.	Percentage of Total Samples.
Milk	...	140	43.21
Butter and Margarine	...	12	3.71
Compound Articles	...	18	5.56
Miscellaneous	...	137	42.28
Drugs	...	17	5.24

of the 324 samples examined 13 (4.0 per cent) were non-genuine; while in 1949 of 204 samples examined 24 (11.2 per cent.) were non-genuine.

The 13 non-genuine samples were dealt with as follows:—

Legal Action in two cases (see page 24) which resulted in fines; 8 letters of caution; 3 verbal cautions.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—Eighteen visits were paid to premises within the Borough in connection with this Act during the year under review.

Five samples of fertiliser and 6 samples of Feeding Stuffs were taken all of which proved to be within the prescribed limits of variation laid down in the Act.

REPORT OF MILK AND DAIRIES INSPECTOR.

Visits	No. of Inspections	De-faults found	Com-munica-tions
MILK:			
To inspect dairy premises	479	17	6
,, inspect retail shops	217	13	4
,, examine milk churns	531	11	2
,, examine milk vehicles	98	17	3
ICE-CREAM:			
To inspect vehicles	112	18	—
,, ,, manufacturers premises	583	29	—
,, ,, merchants premises	19	—	—
,, ,, vendors premises	422	17	—
FOOD AND DRUG ACTS:			
To obtain milk samples	140	9	9
,, obtain other samples	184	4	4
BACTERIOLOGY:			
To obtain milk samples	263	11	11
,, obtain water samples	—	—	—
,, ,, ,, (Swimming Baths)	6	—	—
MISCELLANEOUS:			
To obtain samples of fertilisers and feeding stuffs	18	—	—
Other visits of inspection	204	—	—
Smoke observations	5	3	3

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered and the number of carcases condemned as well as the parts and organs condemned.

The number of carcases inspected was 29,376, an increase of 8,744 over the previous year's total. There was an increase of 1,573 cattle and cows, more than 7,000 sheep, and 285 pigs.

Alterations to one of the three slaughter houses enabled slaughtering to be done more efficiently; but as the premises are not large enough to cope with peak killings, slaughtering was necessary on Sundays during the second half of the year when the greater proportion of animals was available.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered and inspected ...	6387	1164	315	20612	898
Whole carcases condemned—all diseases except tuberculosis	—	7	3	9	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3466	457	—	558	73
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	54.3 %	39.8%	—	2.7 %	9.9 %
Whole carcases condemned—tuberculosis only	11	25	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	520	478	—	—	23
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.3%	43.2%	—	—	3.1 %

DETAILS OF DISEASED CARCASES CONDEMNED

	Cattle. exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Tuberculosis	11	25	—	—	5	41
Fever, Acute	—	—	—	—	9	9
Decomposition	—	—	—	3	—	3
Septic Conditions	—	7	1	—	1	9
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	1
Multiple Tumours	—	—	—	1	—	1
Emaciation and Dropsy	—	—	2	4	—	6
Multiple Injuries	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	11	32	3	9	16	71

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED
AND SALVAGED BY MINISTRY OF FOOD**

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef	25851	Imported Meat—	
Veal	96	Beef	1445
Mutton	976	Mutton	240
Pork	2526	Pork	148
Offal	92273	Veal	14

Total Amount: 55 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 5 lbs.

**Other Foods Condemned
and Collected for Possible Salvage by Cleansing Department.**

	lbs.		lbs.
Tinned meats	2764	Dried Milk	380
Tinned vegetables	6255	Yeast	1624
Tinned Milk	3655	Wet fish	322
Tinned fish	1870	Dried fruits	778
Tinned Fruit	928	Rabbits	100
Provisions	1732	Poultry	435
Bacon	1590	Sausage	489
Confectionery	75	Potatoes	7784
Cream	40		

Total amount: 13 tons 15 cwts. 21 lbs.

**Inspection of Foodstuffs.
Number of Visits to Premises.**

Slaughterhouses	1462	Fish shops and Stalls ...	140
Wholesale meat depots ...	620	Retail fruiterers	53
Butcher shops	452	Open-Air Stalls	180
Meat carrying vehicles ...	240	Railway Premises	21
Tripe preparers	6	Feeding Centres and Canteens	9
Gut scrapers	10	Institutions	3
Jam and Pickle Factories	3	Horse Meat shops	12
Wholesale Provisions	103	Other Visits	32
Retail Provisions	612		
Wholesale Fruiterers	24		

A number of verbal warnings respecting accumulations of rubbish, choked drains, and lack of cleanliness were given and the nuisances were remedied.

Food and Drugs Act, 1936.

A complaint was received concerning a loaf of bread containing a stained finger bandage. The contaminated part of the loaf, brought to the Health Department, was condemned by a Justice of the Peace. The bakery firm which supplied the loaf was prosecuted and fined £10. This firm had purchased the bread from another bakery firm which was also prosecuted and fined £20.

SECTION G.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIONS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) 1950.

45

	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 years and over
Diphtheria (including Membranous (Croup)	10	—	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	118	—	7	35	55	—	4	3	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	11	3	4	—	—	7	4	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis Para and N. Para.	34	1	11	1	5	—	—	3	10	1
Pneumonia (Influenza)	37	4	—	—	—	—	2	7	12	—
Pneumonia	409	43	49	38	40	—	13	27	82	45
Erysipelas	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	17	9
Measles	2164	152	759	751	481	14	3	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	428	61	113	128	121	4	1	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	18	18	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	75	4	20	15	20	—	1	5	4	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	3389	275	972	973	729	53	66	134	118	69

DISINFECTION.

The following work has been done by the Disinfecting Officer:—

Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	873
Number of calls for bedding, etc.	...	...	...	393

The work carried out at the Disinfecting Station at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases is given in the following table:—

Articles	Disinfected	Destroyed
Beds	310	52
Mattresses	518	37
Blankets	1480	43
Pillows	722	28
Quilts	231	21
Sheets	683	62
Bolsters	305	18
Sundries	830	171
	5079	432

SCABIES.

The following has been performed by the Officer appointed for this particular work:—

New cases notified 6. Discharged cases 6.

The rooms and bedding in respect of all discharged cases of scabies were disinfested, a total of 793 verminous rooms being disinfested by the Officer during the year as well as the cleansing of 6 persons infested with vermin.

VENEREAL DISEASES

For the report on Venereal Diseases, I am indebted to Dr. Kirkhouse; and I have extracted the relevant facts and figures from his report on the Special Treatment Department of the Sunderland Royal Infirmary.

ATTENDANCE OF SUNDERLAND PATIENTS, 1950

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
M.(civ.)	490	373	452	401	422	444	385	406	428	396	393	346	4936
M.(S'ce.)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
F.(civ.)	416	415	394	351	416	385	286	281	361	405	361	223	4294

NEW CASES

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
M.(civ.)	37	30	43	29	27	31	36	34	33	26	32	22	380
M.(S'ce.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F.(civ.)	8	15	16	5	10	9	6	7	10	8	10	5	109

TREATMENT.

Syphilis. Routine treatment of syphilis was carried out with Penicillin plus injections of Arsenic and Bismuth. This form of treatment has proved satisfactory and will be continued.

Gonorrhœa. Routine treatment consisted of injections of Penicillin, one injection in the case of males and two in the case of females. As far as is known there have been no relapses.

Ante-natal Cases. 33 Ante-natal patients attended the Clinic during the year; of these, 29 were suffering from syphilis, 2 from gonorrhœa and 2 were non V.D. The results were 16 normal births, 1 miscarriage, 1 abortion, 1 discharged before confinement (G.C.), 2 premature births (both died) leaving 12 confinements due in 1951.

Cases Treated at the Special Treatment Department,
Royal Infirmary, during 1950.

	M.	F.	Total.
No. of cases under treatment at the beginning of the year	356	327	683

Number of cases removed from the Register which returned for treatment	16	16	32
--	----	----	----

Cases dealt with for the first time:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Syphilis	60	55	115
Soft Chancre	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	124	26	150
Non-venereal condition	403	101	504
	587	182	769

No. of cases dealt with for first time known to have received treatment at other Centres	72	6	78
	—	—	—
Totals	1031	531	1562
	—	—	—

No. of cases discharged	515	158	673
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----

No. of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment	42	25	67
--	----	----	----

Transferred to other Centres	172	19	191
------------------------------	-----	----	-----

Under treatment at 31-12-50	302	329	631
	—	—	—
Totals	1031	531	1562
	—	—	—

218 seamen attended during the year, of whom 56 were foreigners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 72 less cases of Tuberculosis notified than in the previous year, and 39 less deaths.

During the year 211 cases of Pulmonary and 45 Non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified making a total of 256 cases. Of these 129 were males and 127 females.

Cases of Tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease during 1950:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1—5	5	3	4	6	1	—	3	2
5—15	8	6	8	4	—	1	—	—
15—25	19	54	5	2	7	9	1	3
25—45	36	34	3	8	21	11	1	—
45—65	30	6	3	1	22	5	1	1
65—75	6	1	—	1	8	2	—	—
75 upwards	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	106	105	23	22	61	29	6	6

Statistics relating to the mass radiography survey carried out in Sunderland from the 19th—25th September, 1950.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS CARE
COMMITTEE.

SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE GRANTED DURING
THE YEAR.

74 persons granted clothing (value)	149	1	5
42 persons granted footwear (value)	49	16	9
63 families granted beds and bedding (value) ...	228	8	7
68 patients received nourishment grants	347	12	5
3 Save the Children Fund cases	22	10	0
45 Rent Rebates allowed	438	4	4
30 cases helped through various Benevolent Funds, including one special case which received £78	255	4	3
30 cases helped through Care Funds	112	7	11
Extra help at Xmas for Sunderland patients in Hospitals or Sanatoria	32	15	0
4 children helped through Priestman Fund ...	16	0	0
1 pram (second-hand) supplied	1	0	0
12 children received Xmas Toys			

Extract from Report of the Care in Illness Committee

During 1950 no fewer than 326 new cases were brought to the notice of this Committee. It is interesting to observe that now the work is better known, the majority of cases, viz., 215, were referred direct by the medical profession, hospital almoners, etc., whereas during the first complete year of the Committee's existence, most of the applications were personal ones to the Guild.

The remaining 111 cases were personal applicants to whom the following was supplied:—

Crutches lent	70	cases
Rubber sheets	16	„
Air rings	29	„
Air beds	3	„
Nursing appliances	51	„
Walking sticks	25	„
Bed cages	8	„
Bed rests	23	„
Invalid chairs	66	„

The demand for surgical appliances has increased greatly and new stocks have had to be purchased. In spite of the poor Summer, invalid chairs were lent to a larger number of invalids for at least one month; and towards the end of the Season it was found possible to give many who had had an early turn an extra week or two.

SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE GRANTED DURING
THE YEAR

		£	s.	d.
35 families helped with clothing, beds and bedding		51	12	6
58 cases received nourishment grants	...	42	6	4
45 cases received new rubber sheets, bed rests, crutches, etc.	...	65	10	5
New walking sticks, bed pans, etc. (stock)	...	12	18	5

In connection with the work of the TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, the Chest Physician reports as follows:—

Total Number of New Cases including Contacts	...	2,629
Number found to be Tuberculous	...	252
Number of Observation Cases	...	79
Number found to be Non-Tuberculous	...	2,298
Number of Respiratory Cases	...	214
1. With Positive Sputum	...	107
2. With Negative Sputum	...	107
Number of Non-Respiratory Cases	...	38
Number of New Contacts Examined	...	1,258
Number found to be Tuberculous	...	14
Number of Observation Cases	...	21
Number found to be Non-Tuberculosis	...	1,223
Number of Respiratory Cases	...	14
1. With Positive Sputum	...	4
2. With Negative Sputum	...	10
Number of Non-Respiratory Cases	...	—
Number of Old Contacts Examined	...	199
Number of Deaths of Respiratory Cases Notified in Year	...	23
1. With Positive Sputum	...	16
2. With Negative Sputum	...	7
Number of Non-Respiratory Cases Notified in Year	...	52

Number of Deaths of Non-Respiratory Cases Notified in Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total Visits by Health Visitors (3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,053
Number of Patients on Domiciliary Treatment	...						191
Number of Cases of Overcrowding and Sanitary Defects reported to Medical Officer of Health	...	...					147
Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register, December 31st, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,347

SUNDERLAND SOCIAL SERVICE WELFARE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

		1949.	1950.
New Cases	...	125	140
Unmarried Mothers	...	71	85
Married women with illegitimate children	...	14	15
Widows with illegitimate children	...	2	1
Matrimonial	...	4	2
Discharged Prisoners Aid Society	...	5	1
Prospective Adopters	...	26	28
Care and Protection	...	—	1
Out of Control	...	1	2
Advice, etc.	...	2	5

1950 opened fairly quietly, but it was not long before a steady stream of callers reached over 1,000 up to the end of December, involving 616 visits, 1,300 letters written and 677 communications received. It was a year of steady progress and achievement, in spite of setbacks and disappointments.

The Parker Home was a refuge for 18 girls, 13 of whom were Sunderland girls; this is slightly less than 1949 when the figures were 22, 17 of whom came from the County Borough. The Home itself is excellent, with a good Superintendent and Staff.

As stated above, there have been 55 unmarried mothers, besides 15 married women with illegitimate children and one widow, which brings the total to over 100 illegitimate children known personally to us, without a father or a real home. Of these 16 were passed for adoption, which still leaves over 80 children with only a mother to protect them. Some of course are absorbed into the family, and whilst it is not a perfect arrangement, it is the best solution to the problem.

The most difficult task has been to find a real permanent place for some of these homeless mothers who decide to keep their child. Weeks of writing and searching have sometimes led to a successful settlement, and yet it is nearly impossible to solve this state of affairs.

The cases of the married women with illegitimate children appear to be lonely women who are parted from their husbands for various reasons, but in nearly every case the woman has kept her child and been able to provide for it. Getting to know them has given us an opportunity to try and make them see things in their right perspective, so that they no longer think, because their husbands have deserted them, that two wrongs make one right.

Our unmarried mothers too, after having been helped over their immediate difficulties, have been very grateful. In one case a poor girl said, "How is it that you are so kind and helpful? I never expected to be treated like this after what I had done." This was an opportunity to explain to her exactly what we hope to achieve spiritually in our work.

Enquiries by couples anxious to adopt a child have been most carefully followed up by home visits and enquiries from all available sources. Out of 28 applicants, 6 were found to be unsuitable for various reasons, but excellent homes were found for 16 babies, and all proved worthy in all respects of the task they have willingly sought and undertaken.

Our grateful thanks must be again recorded to the Medical Officer of Health and his staff, the Children's Officer, Deputy Children's Officer and staff, the Guild of Help, the Probation Officers, the Mental Welfare Department, the Education Department, the Magistrates' Clerk and his staff, the N.S.P.C.C., the Almoners of the Royal Infirmary and the General Hospital, and the Sunderland Police.

SECTION H.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

(1) Administration:—

- (a) The Mental Health Sub-Committee consists of eleven members of the Health Committee and meetings are held at monthly intervals.
- (b) Staff employed in the Mental Health Service is as follows:—

(1) MEDICAL:—

Medical Officer of Health.

- 1 Medical Officer for Mental Health—Psychiatrist (Part-time), responsible for the Medical direction of the Service.
- 2 Psychiatrists (Medical Superintendent and Assistant Medical Superintendent at Cherry Knowle Hospital), approved by Local Health Authority for certification of Mental Defectives under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

(2) SOCIAL WORKERS:—

Employed at the Mental Welfare Department, 7 Murton Street, Sunderland.

- 1 Mental Welfare Officer. (Duly Authorised Officer—Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938).
- 2 Social Workers.
- 1 Social Worker (Psychiatric After-Care Part-time).
- 1 Shorthand-Typist Clerk.

Occupation Centre, 7 Murton Street.

- 1 Supervisor.
- 1 Assistant Supervisor.

Elder Girls' Class:—

- 1 Supervisor.

Industrial Centre, Railway Row:—

- 1 Supervisor (Male Instructor).

Health Department, "Thornholme," Thornholme Road.

- 1 Male Duly Authorised Officer (Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act).

(c) CO-ORDINATION WITH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARDS AND HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

Co-operation has been continued throughout the year between the Mental Welfare Department, the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committee and other public services. A close link, personal contact and cordial relationship with all workers in these departments is a most important attribute to an efficient organisation in our Mental Health Service and it is very gratifying to report that this co-operation and service is of such a high standard that the Medical Superintendent of the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital has expressed in writing his appreciation of the valuable assistance and service given by the Mental Deficiency Officer and staff and for the excellent cordial liaison existing between them and his hospital Welfare Officer and Staff.

The supervision of cases on licence from the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital is carried out by their Welfare Officer and of those from the Northgate and District and other Hospitals outside the area by the Mental Welfare Department Staff. The link with the Northgate and District Hospital is also very close and cordial.

The supervision of cases on licence from the Mental Hospital is carried out by the Social Worker, Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope, Co. Durham, and of patients from other Mental Hospitals by the Psychiatric Social Worker of the National Association for Mental Health by whom, however, no referrals of such cases in this Borough were received during the year ending 31st Dec., 1950.

The Mental Welfare Department Staff and Psychiatric Social Worker for the National Association for Mental Health, who is engaged on a part-time basis by the Local Health Authority, and the Hospital Social Workers all co-operate to keeping close contact with other social agencies in the town in the course of their daily duties in providing for the after-care of ex-hospital or ex-service patients.

(d) DUTIES DELEGATED TO VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS.

Active co-ordination with voluntary social agencies has been maintained and although this Local Health Authority has undertaken its responsibilities zealously the assistance given by workers in our voluntary agencies is of great value, even if the scope of their duties in the field of mental health work has been reduced under the present legislation. The Guild of Help, British Red Cross, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association, Services Benevolent Fund, Ex-Service Employment Association, Women's Voluntary Services and the British Legion, by their gifts of perhaps more "material" comforts such as clothing,

bedding, furniture and other necessities, have given valuable help to, and eased the burden of many people to whom our present standard of living has been a cause for great anxiety and strain.

(e) TRAINING OF MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS.

During 1950 the Assistant Supervisor, The Occupation Centre, attended the Refresher Course for Occupation Centre Staffs held at Whitelands Training College, Putney, London, arranged by the National Association for Mental Health, and since the formation in April, 1950, of a Group of the Association of Mental Health Workers in this region workers have been given an opportunity to visit hospitals, hear lectures, see demonstrations and hold discussions with other workers covering all aspects of mental health work. The Department of Psychological Medicine, Durham University (The Medical School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne) is proposing to hold a week-end residential course for duly Authorised Officers during April, 1951. To the Mental Health Workers qualified by "experience" only and to the ex-R.O. and others who entered the Mental Health Service on the "Appointed Day"—5th July, 1948, these short term training courses are most essential and of great value.

(2) **Account of work undertaken in the Community under Section 28 National Health Service Act, 1946, Prevention, Care and After-Care.**

The people are gradually, though still somewhat, rather slowly, losing their attitude of "suspicion" towards treatment of "mental ill health" and are more aware now of the need to prevent the onset of such condition, to make use of and accept willingly the services provided for such prevention—the care and after-care in their own homes of persons requiring psychiatric treatment. At present the statistics relating to this section of the service furnished in my report do not, I feel, present an accurate illustration of the necessity for such service and it will take some time before the magnitude of this problem can be truly assessed. This can only be achieved by our Psychiatrists, Medical Practitioners, etc., and Mental Health Workers helping the people to understand and accept whatever treatment may be considered necessary to aid their recovery to good "mental" health just as willingly as if they were in need of care owing to "physical" ill health.

Enquiries, etc., during the past year have indicated that there still appears to be some uncertainty and confusion regarding the facilities provided by the Local Health Authority for the residents of the County Borough only as distinct from those provided by the Specialists from Cherry Knowle Hospital at the Psychiatric Out-Patients' Clinic, The Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, for residents in Sunderland and other towns in this hospital

area. For those persons who, although not in need of hospital care may require advice and care in their own homes the Medical Officer for Mental Health, Dr. W. Hinds, is available for consultations every Tuesday from 4 p.m. and the Social Worker, National Association for Mental Health for interviews every Monday from 2 p.m. at the Mental Welfare Department, 7 Murton Street, Sunderland, and for visits to their homes one and a half days each week. Arrangements for such consultations, interviews or visits can be made by contacting the above-mentioned department ('phone 4720) where the Mental Welfare Officer or Social Workers are always available or at the Health Department ('phone 56201) for the Duly Authorised Officer between 9.0 a.m.—5 p.m. Monday—Friday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon Saturday. Sessions are held at The Psychological Clinic for Out-Patients, Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, each Monday from 2.30—6.0 p.m. and the Psychiatrists are also available for consultation by appointment and treatment obtained at the Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope, Co. Durham.

It is unfortunate that owing to the refusal of some people to accept these facilities for early advice and treatment it is sometimes necessary to call in the Duly Authorised Officer to take initial proceedings to affect removal to hospital by authorisation or certification under the Lunacy Act, but this action is never taken unless all methods to persuade the sufferer to accept treatment as an "out" patient or if in need of hospital care to enter as a voluntary patient have failed and then only in the patient's own interest and after careful examination by the Doctor, Magistrate and Duly Authorised Officer.

I do not doubt that with continued co-operation of workers and co-ordination of all services concerned with the health of the people this particular service will eventually be accepted without question as part of their health department.

Amount of work carried out by the National Association for Mental Health on our behalf during the year ending 31st December, 1950.

Cases on the 31-12-1949	...	...	...	48
Cases referred during 1-1-50—31-12-50	...			15
				—
				63
Cases closed 1-1-50—31-12-50	...	...		27
				—
Cases as on the 31-12-1950	...	...		36
				—
Number of—				
Visits and interviews	...	...		362
Letters sent out	...	...		175
Telephone calls, consultations with other agencies and Doctors	...			158

The care and after-care of our mental defectives continues to be carried out by the Mental Welfare Officer and two Social Workers of the Mental Welfare Department and although during the past year the number of cases referred as "subject to be dealt with" under the provisions of Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act have shown a decrease, the requests from parents and relatives for help, advice and guidance have not, and it appears now that the maintenance of regular "personal" contact, although a "statutory" and not a "voluntary" duty by the workers is appreciated and in demand by the people. Help and guidance re National Assistance Board Allowances, employment, pensions, etc., is readily given and often asked for on behalf of members of the family who are not mentally defective but who have accepted the social workers as "friends" always pleased to assist them if possible. Many parents do not yet realise that all "mentally defective" children who are unemployable when they reach the age of 16 years are entitled to receive benefit under the National Assistance Act, 1948. This allowance has been a great help to many households. Cases are visited at least once every three months, sometimes more often according to the necessity.

The majority of referrals are received from the Director of Education, but many are referred by the Youth Employment Officers, Ministry of Labour, Children's Officers, Probation Officer, Moral Welfare Officer, National Assistance Board, etc., and so close contact is maintained with those departments.

The gravity of the problem concerning lack of hospital accommodation for our mental defectives cannot be measured only by the large numbers on our waiting lists but also by the effect on family life caused by the continued presence in the home of the low grade defective child or adult. The greater share of the responsibility for caring for such a child in the home is usually the mothers, who often carries out her duties so faithfully that sometimes the greater part of her love and attention is given to her defective child at the expense of the other members of her family. This situation has sometimes created emotional disturbances and so increased the demand for the Mental Health Workers' services. Hospital Accommodation is not only required for the low grade defective but also by those in need of care and training which will eventually help them to take their place in or undertake employment in the community, but which unfortunately cannot always be provided in their own homes.

The shortage of hospital accommodation and a lack of suitable employment in the town for the "employable" mental defective therefore places a greater responsibility on the Local Health Authority to continue to provide adequate care, after-care and improve training facilities in the town. To children excluded from our elementary or special schools owing to mental retardation

the opportunity to attend an Occupation Centre is most essential not only to train them according to their needs and ability but to give them the sense and feeling of being the same, such as going to and from "school" just like their brothers and sisters; and for the adult mental defectives to obtain and fit into employment in the community, many advantages are gained by attendance at the Centres in which useful occupations are provided.

2362 visits to mental defectives have been made and 283 interviews held throughout the year.

The Occupation Centres. Thirty five children and thirty adults (Males and Females) attend our three Occupation Centres —two of which (Children's Centre and Adult Female Class) are situated in Murton Street and one (Male Adult Class) at Railway Row in most inadequate and overcrowded premises, which are however, kept as bright and cheerful as possible with good lighting, clean and bright painting, etc. The Local Health Authority are continuing their efforts to obtain permission to build new or secure alternative premises, and it is to be regretted that owing to the national financial situation a start to build a new centre has not been made. Owing to our requirements to provide training for more than 150 mental defectives suitable premises large enough to provide training facilities and workshops for this number are not easily found.

In spite of these difficulties excellent work is carried out by the staff consisting of a supervisor and assistant for the children, female supervisor for the female adult defectives and male instructor (supervisor) for the male adult defectives. Hot mid-day meals are provided by the Schools Meals Service also the same charge made as that for the ordinary school, the Local Health Authority accepting responsibility for payment of the full cost to the Education Authority, the children are also provided with free milk and those children unable to attend the Centre obtain milk from their own tradesman at a reduced rate. Special transport is not provided yet but the travelling expenses are paid by the Local Health Authority so it will be noted that these handicapped persons are afforded as far as possible the same services and privileges as the children attending the ordinary schools in the town.

The Centres have throughout the year been visited on twelve occasions by representatives from other Authorities, post-graduate students from our Local University and a Medical Officer from Holland who have praised our work, one newspaper reporting a Local Authority Member as having stated that "The work at the Sunderland Centre for backward children surpassed anything he had seen."

In spite of this well deserved praise and appreciation of our centres, entire satisfaction will not be felt until we have succeeded in carrying out our plans to provide more suitable premises to meet the needs of our requirements in this particular branch of the service.

The Medical Officer for Mental Health reports that the features that were apparent last year are operative again in greater measure to cause tension of living this year. Mental illness, if anything, is on the increase.

As far as the Mental Welfare work is concerned, this is often hampered by the time required to find a bed for a case not only suitable but often urgent. The Occupation Centres are filling a great need but are not now adequate.

It is estimated that by 1980, over 20% of the population will be of pensionable age. This may mean a steadily increasing call on mental hospital beds or perhaps not. It is going to mean that mental defective dependents well cared for at home will be left stranded, by the death of their parents, at a later age than formerly, in a proportion of cases.

The work of making an accurate survey of all the patients under the Authority's care at Highfield Hospital and at the Occupation Centres has begun. It is desirable to know exactly the calibre of each patient.

An account of the work undertaken by the Duly Authorised Officer under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, during the year ending 31st December, 1950.

202 Persons suffering or labouring under some physical or mental difficulty were dealt with by the Duly Authorised Officer during the year entailing many visits.

Cases are brought to the Officer's knowledge by Medical Practitioners, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board, the Guild of Help, the Police, and by relatives of the patients, and also by the Medical Psychiatrists attending the Out-Patients' Clinic at the Royal Infirmary.

Close collaboration with, and assistance from the Police is maintained and the number of cases dealt with by the Police independently has been further diminished—whereas in 1949 they removed direct to hospital 11 persons, only 6 in 1950 were similarly dealt with. This means that in many cases the D.A.O. is called in and given an opportunity to arrange medical and judicial examination, and also, connivance of the relatives of the patient. This is done sometimes even in cases of attempted suicide.

The following is a summary of cases dealt with:—

95 persons (out of the above total) were taken by the Duly

Authorised Officer to various hospitals, and under various orders. (This is an increase by 24 over 1949 figures).

Of these, persons "certified" under Summary Reception Orders (Lunacy Act 1890) and received into Cherry Knowle Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	48
Removed under 14 Days Justice's Orders to Cherry Knowle Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	16
Removed under D.A.O.'s 3 Days Orders to Cherry Knowle Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	8
Voluntary Patients accompanied by D.A.O. to Cherry Knowle Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	12
(One of these was a "Minor" taken to hospital under Mental Treatment Act, 1930 sec. I (2).						
Removed under 14 Days Justice's Orders to South Shields General Hospital (Psychiatric Ward)	...	...				3
Removed under D.A.O.'s 3 Days Orders to South Shields General Hospital (Psychiatric Ward)	...	...				3
Removed to Winterton Mental Hospital	...	...	...			4
3 of these were "Certified" under Lunacy Act, 1890 and 1 was "Certified" as a Temporary Patient under Mental Treatment Act 1930.						
These last mentioned were Durham County residents undergoing medical treatment in Sunderland Hospitals, viz:—						
Royal Infirmary (2), Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital (1) and Hospital for Infectious Diseases (1) respectively.						
Conveyed to Newcastle General Hospital, Psychiatric Ward (by special arrangement)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	95

Regarding the 84 patients received into Cherry Knowle Hospital:—

Those removed from their homes were	...	...	57
Those removed from local Hospitals	...	...	23
Including 7 from Royal Infirmary;			
6 „ General Hospital;			
3 „ Hospital for Infectious Diseases;			
2 „ Home of "Little Sisters of the Poor."			
5 „ South Shields General Hospital to which they had been taken by the D.A.O. to await accommodation in Cherry Knowle Hospital.			

Those removed from Sunderland Police Station were 3

Two of these were men found wandering, strangers to Sunderland, one of whom was aged and died in hospital within a month and the other was a young man whose people in Birmingham were contacted, and he was taken home by them after five weeks in hospital.

One other was a man who had been remanded from Court to Durham Prison for observation, and upon being brought back was "certified."

Also taken to Cherry Knowle Hospital, a young man from Scotland who had wandered into Ministry of Pensions Office, High Street West 1

—
84

In addition to the foregoing there were admitted to Cherry Knowle Hospital from the County Borough of Sunderland Voluntary Patients (unaccompanied) 173

Also "Temporary" Patients (Mental Treatment Act 1930—Sections 1 and 5 respectively 5

Total of Patients admitted to Cherry Knowle Hospital from Sunderland 262

Voluntary Patients having left the hospital during the year numbered 139

Patients received into hospital under various orders:—

Being allowed out on periods of "Trial" 15

Obtaining their discharge from the Orders, having recovered 15

Deaths occurring in Cherry Knowle Hospital (Sunderland Residents) 45

(Of these, 29 were patients detained under Orders and 16 were Voluntary Patients).

—
214

Among those having died:—

One had been an in-patient for over 50 years;

One had been an in-patient for over 40 years;

One had been an in-patient for over 30 years;

Five had been in-patients for over 20 years.

It must be observed that many of the persons the D.A.O. is called upon to visit are not admitted into Mental Hospitals as some proved to be physical patients and in others domestic

troubles, so that the work of the D.A.O. is often that of a Social Welfare Officer, whilst some are kept under observation indefinitely, and for others recommendations and arrangements are made for their admission as Voluntary Patients.

Of these there were admitted to:—

Cherry Knowle Hospital	...	...	...	...	14
Sunderland General Hospital	...	...	...	...	3
Welfare Department of "Highfield"	...	...	...	...	2

And for several others appointments were made to attend the Psychiatric Clinic of the Royal Infirmary.

Until October 1950 little was done by the D.A.O. in visiting ex-patients of Cherry Knowle Hospital as "After-Care" Work, but from that time as much time as possible was devoted to that side of the work, and in the remainder of the year 31 "After-Care" visits were paid.

In the majority of such cases it has been pleasing to note the great improvement in health of those the D.A.O. had either previously recommended as Voluntary Patients or had accompanied to hospital.

But during the year those having to return to hospital numbered 6; 2 as Voluntary Patients and 4 "Certified."

During the year ended 31st December, 1950, Mental Deficiency Care work was carried out as follows:—

(1) PARTICULARS OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 1950.						
(1) Number of ascertained mental defectives found to be "Subject to be dealt with."			M.	F.	T.	
(a) In Institutions (including cases on licence therefrom)—						
Under 16 years	...	...	15	6	21	
Over 16 years	...	...	124	104	228	
(b) Under Guardianship (including cases on licence therefrom)—						
Under 16 years	...	...	—	—	—
Over 16 years	...	...	—	2	2	
(c) In "places of safety"	...	...	1	2	3	
(d) Under Statutory Supervision (excluding cases on licence)—						
Under 16 years	49	44	93	
Over 16 years	340	331	671	

	M.	F.	T.
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(e) Action not yet taken under any of the above	1	2	3
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Total ascertained cases found to be "subject to be dealt with" ...	530	491	1021
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No. of cases included in (b) to (e) above awaiting removal to an institution	29	36	65
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(2) Number of Mental Defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with" but over whom some form of voluntary supervision is maintained—

Under 16 year of age ...	3	—	3
Over 16 years of age ...	39	38	77

Total number of Mental Defectives (1) plus (2)	572	529	1101
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(3) Number of Mental Defectives receiving training—

(a) In day training centres—

Under 16 years of age ...	17	18	35
Over 16 years of age ...	15	15	30
Total ...	32	33	65

Mental Defectives under Guardianship:—

Males—None. Females—None

(2) PARTICULARS OF CASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR, 1950:

(1) Ascertainment—

(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities Section 57, Education Act, 1944:—

(i) Under Section 57 (3) ...	5	5	10
(ii) Under Section 57 (5):—			
On leaving special schools	14	6	20
On leaving ordinary schools	—	—	—

(b) Other ascertained defectives reported during 1950 and found to be "subject to be dealt with"

2	2	4
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Total ascertained defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with" during the year	21	13	34
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(c) Other reported cases ascertained during 1950 who are not at present "subject to be dealt with" ... 4 1 5

Total number of cases reported during the year ... 25 14 39

(2) Disposal of cases reported during the year:—

(a) Ascertained defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with":—

(i) Admitted to Institutions ...	2	—	2
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "places of Safety"	—	—	—
(iv) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	19	10	29
(v) Died or removed from area	—	1	1
(vi) Action not yet taken ...	—	2	2

Total ascertained defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with" ... 21 13 34

(b) Cases not at present subject to be dealt with:—

(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ...	3	—	3
(ii) Later found not to be defective ...	—	1	1
(iii) Died or removed from area	—	—	—
(iv) Action unnecessary ...	—	—	—
(v) Action not yet taken ...	1	—	1

Total cases not at present "subject to be dealt with" ... 4 1 5

(3) Number of Mental Defectives in Institutions under Community Care including Voluntary supervision or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1950, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1950:—

(a) Ceased to be under care ... 10 3 13
 (b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of 6 4 10

Total 16 7 23

(4) Of the Total Number of Mental Defectives known to the Local Health Authority:—

(a) Number who have given birth to children during 1950:—

M. F. T.

(i) After marriage	...	8
(ii) While unmarried	...	3

(b) Number who have married during 1950

...	1	7	8
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MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

REPORT ON OCCUPATION CENTRE

Centre:—Children's Centre, Sunderland.

Date of Visit:—24th and 25th January, 1950.

Centre Open:—Mondays to Fridays, 9.30 to 3.15.

Supervisor:—Miss Srafton.

Class Room:—As before.

Regr. V.S. Total:—35 (17 boys, 18 girls).

Average attendance:—27/28.

To-day's attendance:—31.

Helpers, Paid:—Miss Christiansen, Assistant Supervisor. Dinner-Time Helper.

Work Taught:—Usual Centre Subjects.

Amusements:—Summer Outing. Xmas Party.

Types of Patients:—Active Imbeciles chiefly.

Remarks:—The chief needs of this Centre were fully described in the last report, i.e. more extensive premises with playground facilities. These needs have now been generally recognised by the responsible Committee and it has been agreed that efforts shall be made to obtain alternative and more suitable accommodation for the Centre.

Some new apparatus has been obtained for the younger children but there is still a serious shortage of handwork material. To-day several of the children were embroidering on soiled material which had already been used more than once and unpicked. This must have a most discouraging effect on both the child and the staff, and under the circumstances there can be little pride of achievement in a finished article. It is understood that materials have now been on order for over a year and are still not delivered, perhaps some enquiries might hasten delivery—this prolonged delay is not general elsewhere.

Rediffusion has now been installed and good use is being made of the Music and Movement programmes, which are popular with the children.

Lack of space continues to be a great handicap for the various physical activities; considering the difficulties with which the staff have to contend, good work is being done but with more extensive premises greater progress could be made. It was observed to-day that some children are in need of new plimsolls.

The children have the use of the facilities provided through the School Clinics, but as yet they do not have the benefit of routine medical and dental inspection. It is suggested that consideration should be given to the introduction of such inspection.

I was glad to hear that application had been made for the Assistant Supervisor to attend a Refresher Course in March, she should derive great benefit from this Course. It is hoped that in due course it will prove possible to arrange for all the members of the Staff to visit other Centres, it is understood that this suggestion has been approved in principle.

(Signed) M. GORDON,

Inspector of the Board of Control.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

REPORT ON OCCUPATION CENTRE

Centre:—Elder Girls' Class, Sunderland.

Date of Visit:—24th and 25th January, 1950.

Centre open:—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.
to 4 p.m.

Supervisor:—Mrs. Gray.

Class Room:—One small room on 1st floor—use of
Centre Classroom after 3.15 p.m. and
use of basement room.

Regr. V.S. Total:—18 (2 under 16).

To-day's attendance:—13.

Work taught:—Knitting, embroidery.

Types of patients:—Feeble-minded and some imbecile
women.

Remarks:—At the time of my visit to this Class, the Supervisor was away and Mrs. Blakie, the Assistant mental welfare visitor was temporarily in charge. I was able to see the hand-work being done by these girls; this continues to be of a high standard, a little more variety could perhaps be introduced to advantage. The girls take pride in their work and the standard reached does credit to the Supervisor. A little over a year ago physical activities were introduced for this group, for these girls have the use of the basement room and the junior classroom after the junior Centre closes at 3.15 p.m.

With the admission of younger girls to this class the development of these physical activities is to be encouraged and they should now be properly organised and regular instruction should be given in such activities as country dancing. A gramophone has been provided but the purchase of some appropriate records would be an asset.

If facilities were available the introduction of simple cookery classes for this group would be popular, several of those attending would be capable of benefiting from such a class, and for them this would provide a useful form of training.

With 13 present to-day out of a possible 18, the classroom on the first floor was noticeably overcrowded.

(Signed) M. GORDON,

Inspector of the Board of Control.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

REPORT ON OCCUPATION CENTRE

Centre:—Boys' Industrial Centre, Sunderland.

Date of Visit: 24th January, 1950.

Centre Open:—Mondays to Fridays, 9 to 4 p.m.

Supervisor:—Mr. Mason.

Class Room:—As before.

Regr. V.S. Total:—14.

Average attendance:—10/12.

To-day's attendance:—12.

Helpers, Paid:—Dinner-Time Helper—11.30 to 1.30.

Work taught:—Woodwork, rug making, sea grass seating, gardening.

Amusements:—Annual Outing.

Types of patients:—Chiefly imbecile lads.

Remarks:—It is pleasing to be able to report certain improvements at this Centre. The following have been installed: electric lighting and heating, a wash basin (water heater is to be provided) telephone and radio rediffusion. These have all added to the general amenities of the Centre.

Consideration should be given to the guarding of the electric heaters, these are sufficiently hot to cause a burn and are at present in exposed positions and are not really recognisable for what they are.

A further improvement has been the appointment of a dinner-time helper, she is in attendance for 2 hours and is responsible for the serving of the mid-day meal and supervising the washing up. This arrangement is working well and is appreciated by the Supervisor. The sitting accommodation for the meal is cramped, this would be eased by the provision of a separate serving table.

It is understood that consideration is being given to the installation of a second W.C. for the use of the Staff, with the employment of a female dinner-time helper this has now become a more urgent matter.

The W.C. which has fairly recently been installed for the boys is fitted with a broad fixed wooden seat, this is in consequence continually wet and will in time become foul smelling and insanitary.

There is no improvement in the supply of wood and the need for introducing other handicrafts persists. Some attempts have been made but without success and it is hoped that further efforts will be made.

During the past few years there has been a noticeable lowering of the average age of the lads attending this Centre—now all but a few are in their teens. It was interesting to hear that to meet the needs of those younger and more active lads, consideration was being given to the introduction of regular P.T.

(Signed) M. GORDON,

Inspector of the Board of Control.

